The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and each other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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You can not dream yourself into a character.—Froude.

WHOLE NO. 964. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 29.

OLD NOTION OF P. O. DEFICIT IS REJECTED BY OFFICIALS

Washington, Sept. 28.—Organized postal employes are winning their long fight against the policy of listing social activities of the department as the a charge against this unit of government.

Whenever postal employes asked for increased wages or improved working conditions, a deficit of millions of dollars is referred to by opponents who shriek that the department "must be put on a business basis."

The workers reply that this is impossible. They point out that the rural free delivery is not on a paying basis, but no one would claim this system should be abolished. This view is being accepted by public officials. Congressman Clyde Kelly of Pennsylvania has urged this theory on the floor of the House.

Postmaster General Brown stated in a speech before the National Association of Postmasters at Sacramento that the accounting system in his department has been changed.

"The department," he said, "renders a large volume of postal service for which it receives no compensation, and, furthermore, it performs important costly services which are essentially 'non-postal.' A notable example of this kind of service is the department's share in the administration of merchant marine acts. The cost of carrying ocean mails under the provision of the merchant marine act of 1928 for the current fiscal year will be not less than $12,000,000 more than the service would cost under poundage rates."

This deficit, together with other services, will henceforth not be charged to the expense of postal operations, but will be grouped together under an appropriate head.

Senator McKellar of Tennessee recently pointed out the causes for the postal deficit in a radio address. These include rural free delivery, parcel post, millions of dollars in subsidies to ocean-going ships, railroad mail charges, air mail operation and scores of other services, all of which are social factors and can not be reckoned on a dollar and cents basis.

"There is nothing to be gained about because the Post Office Department has a deficit of $95,000,000," said the Senator. "The department is still doing the best and most efficient work of any department of the Government."

Uncle Sam's Navy Yards Ignored; Private Ship Builders Are Favored

Washington, Sept. 28.—The Navy Department has for years antagonized the government navy yards and favored private shipbuilders, declared Congressman Black of New York. He demands that the Senate committee that is probing the shipbuilding lobby extend its inquiry to reasons for this situation.

"For the past six or seven years," he said, "the Navy Department has been rather antagonistic to the navy yards, while the private shipyards have been making profits that seem unreasonable.

"It is frequently said that the cost of building ships in navy yards is too high in comparison with the cost in private yards. This is a mistaken conception, which smacks of the activities of shipbuilders' lobbyists.

"It is not true that it costs the Government less to build ships in private shipyards than in the navy yards. For example, in 1927 private yards bid $42,430,000 for four vessels, while two of the navy yards—Puget Sound and Mare Island—bid $30,411,920. Of six contracts awarded at that time, four went to private companies and only two to the navy yards.

"Granting that private shipyards are a necessary adjunct of national defense, so are the navy yards. The navy yards should be looked upon as the primary bases."

Congressman Black expressed the hope that the Senate committee will inquire "why the navy people should be against the navy yards."

"There is plenty of material on this subject to be had," he said. "If this committee does not get it, President Hoover should be respectfully petitioned by Congress to appoint a board of accountants to go after it."

PROFIT RECORDS SOAR; WAGES ARE STATIONARY

New York, Sept. 28.—Profits of Standard Oil companies and leading steel producers have broken all records. Net incomes reach unbelievable figures the past year, while wages remained practically stationary.

In 1928 the steel trust reported a net profit of $113,000,000, or approximately 30 per cent over the 1927 income of $87,000,000. For the first six months of 1929 net profit was $96,000,000, a 100 per cent increase the figures for the same period last year.

Bethlehem Steel Corporation, in the last year, reported a net profit of $18,000,000, an increase of about 18 per cent over the previous year. For the first six months of this year profit of $25,000,000 is larger than for the 12 months of 1928. Bethelehem, together with the steel trust, produces more than one-half of the country's steel output.

Jones & Laughlin Steel Company, Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company and other steel concerns report similar profits that are quietly ignored, while every effort is made to check Congress from authorizing their publication by the Treasury Department.

Various Standard Oil companies will break all records this year for cash disbursements. It is estimated that stockholders will be paid $65,000,000 in the third quarter of this year, against $50,000,000 in the same quarter last year.

WESTERNERS UNITE IN TARIFF CONTEST

Washington, Sept. 28.—Defenders of the Smoot-Hawley tariff bill, that has passed the House, are being bombarded by opponents and drastic changes in the bill seem sure that they will hold the balance of power.

Opponents also oppose the flexible provisions of the tariff bill which would give wider latitude to the President in change rates.

Under the present Fordney-McCumber law, passed in the Harding regime, the President can order changes in rates when "cost of production abroad" warrants. The pending bill would change this to "competitive conditions" and they insist that this would arm the President with unlimited power. They also insist that the Constitution authorizes Congress to set tariff rates, and that the "competitive conditions" plan would surrender this power to the Chief Executive.

Opponents also demand that profits of corporations that benefit by the tariff be published. Senator Watson, administration leader, is quoted as saying that there will be no tariff bill" if this demand is pressed.

WANT ANOTHER JUDGE IN CONTEMPT CASES

Washington, Sept. 28.—A bill that would permit a defendant charged with certain contempt of court to be tried by another judge was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Vandenburg of Michigan.

The bill is the result of an injunction issued by a Cleveland, Ohio, judge who ordered the sheriff of that county to desist from interfering with a race track that the police official claimed was operating in defiance of law. Two editors were ordered jailed and fined for criticizing the order.

The proposed amendment does not interfere with the usurped jurisdiction of the court nor does it prohibit equity courts from prohibiting enforcement of law.

The amendment merely provides that another judge shall hear the contempt charge where "the character or conduct" of such judge is attacked.

The power of the court to issue these orders is unchallenged.

PLEATING INDUSTRY FIGHTS SWEATSHOPS

New York, Sept. 28.—The Pleaters and Stitchers' Association, an organization of employers, has started a drive against "secret" shops in the production and sweatshop conditions in that industry. The association has an agreement with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and the employers will aid the union in the war on sweatshops.

The employers appointed a committee to list the outlaw shops. In one place is found that employees are frequently worked until 2 a. m. and sleep in the shop to be on hand at the usual hour to begin the regular day's work.

FOOD PRICES UP

Washington, Sept. 28.—Retail food prices increased a little more than 1 per cent from July 15 to August 15, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WHY THIS SECRECY?

The National Association of Manufacturers held their annual meeting in New York October 14-16. A "feature" of this gathering, officials state, will be a discussion of the anti-union shop, which they insist on calling "open" shop.

These lip-defenders of freedom should be expected to give the widest publicity of this discussion. Instead, members are informed:

"The Board of Directors of the Association is limiting this meeting to the firms that are members of the organization and a few special guests. It was decided to keep the meeting in the nature of a closed session, so that discussion of any and all phases of the situation may be without restriction. * * * Thus ready access to the meeting room will be provided and the desire to preserve the confidential character of this gathering will be met."

No one can deny the right of business men to hold secret meetings, but when they ask the public to accept their opposition to workers' collective bargaining, fair-minded citizens will recall this star chamber session.

Secret meetings to discuss a social issue of first importance are associated with privilege, frame-ups, spies and other wrongful practices.

Several years ago this association was investigated by the United States Senate for its secret lobbying practices. The committee denounced the same group who now discuss a public question behind double-barred doors.

LABOR PRESS SCORES

The value of the labor press is shown in an acknowledgment by Sears, Roebuck & Co. that that mail-order concern handled overalls manufactured by Michigan convicts.

The charge was made by the Detroit Labor News and afterwards given continent-wide circulation by the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service, which sends over 300 local labor papers, and official magazines of national and international unions.

The story was declared "unqualifiedly false" by the company, but when confronted by penitentiary records it acknowledged to the Detroit editor that "you were right."

The incident illustrates the power of the labor press that should be built up by workers until it is an invincible defensive arm and a powerful educational factor.

Workers need not expect beneficiaries of privilege will call their attention to the value of a labor press that is a challenge to the status quo. It's only aid can come from workers.

RADICAL SHOE UNION SIGNS AMUSING PACT

Boston, Sept. 28.—A "radical" union of shoe workers in Haverhill, this State, has made a strike settlement that borders on the comic opera.

These workers are such revoluters that they would not associate with the regular Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, affiliated to A. F. of L.

They struck for a five-day week and a 10 per cent increase. After eight weeks' idleness they accepted precent conditions for three years and agreed to the manufacturers' demand that their business manager be named by a salaried "dictator," chosen from outside the shoe trade. The choice has been made and it is a college professor.

The situation brings this comment from Charles L. Baker, veteran trade unionist and editor Shoe Workers' Journal:

"What could be more fitting! A college professor to be the czar of all the shoe workers in a large shoe city. The shoe workers have by this have prided themselves on being radical and now they have proved it. For is it not the height of radicalism to have radical movements all over the world are run, managed or dictated by 'intellectuals' and 'college bred' men?

"In times past we have sometimes heard it said that workers at the bench should have their say in managing union affairs. But now that is pitifully old fashioned."

AFL ORGANIZER DALE DIES IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, Sept. 28.—Joshua B. Dale, veteran trade unionist and A. F. of L. general organizer for 20 years, died in this city following a paralytic stroke. He was a member of Teamsters' Union No. 490 of Vallejo, this State. He was 64 years of age.

He was affectionately known as "Daddy" Dale to every trade unionist along the Pacific Coast.

Several weeks ago he finished an organization campaign in the oil fields of Texas and Oklahoma. Disregarding the advice of friends to recover from a threatened breakdown, he continued his activities in other sections that were reached after long rides and in all kinds of weather.

He was a man of rugged physique and believed trade unionism and courage could maintain him.

The funeral at the Labor Temple in this city was attended by large delegations of trade unionists. President Green and Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L. wired messages of sympathy on behalf of labor to Mrs. Dale and family, who live in Vallejo.

MILLION-DOLLAR LIFE POLICIES

New York, Sept. 28.—More than 300 persons in this country carry $1,000,000 or more life insurance, according to Spectator, a weekly life insurance periodical.

A member of the du Pont family, powder manufacturers of Wilmington, Del., leads the list with $7,000,000. One moving picture magnates each have $5,000,000 insurance. Several other persons carry the same amount.

OLD-AGE PENSION PLAN SUCCEEDS IN CANADA

New York, Sept. 28.—The Canadian old-age pension system is working successfully in seventy provinces, according to E. H. S. Winn, chairman British Columbia Compensation and Pension Board, who discussed this subject at a meeting of old-age pension advocates in this city.

"The British Columbia old-age pension act has been in effect two years," said Mr. Winn. "The cost for the second year, with over 4,000 dependents receiving pensions, is about $1,000,000, one-half of which is reimbursed to the province by the Federal Government. Funds come entirely out of public taxes. Administration is local and the cost is very low, about 1½ per cent."

STATIONARY FIREMEN GAIN

Peoria, Ill., Sept. 28.—Firemen and oilers secured a new agreement from the local ice corporation (Peoria Service Company). Wages are increased and work conditions improved.

SENATE PROBE EXPOSES METHODS USED BY SHIPBUILDERS' LOBBY

Washington, Sept. 28.—The Senate investigation of William B. Shearer's lobbying activities for shipbuilders at the Geneva disarmament conference revealed that during the last Congress these shipbuilders contributed $145,000 to aid in the passage of the Jones-White merchant marine bill. It is also known that much private ship owners and allied interests contributed. This law is a sample of special privilege that is "put over" by arousing the people's patriotic impulse.

The act was intended to get the Government out of the shipping business. The propaganda was nation-wide and a vivid picture was painted of the American flag flying on the Seven Seas if the bill were passed.

If a ship owner would build a vessel of 8,500 tons deadweight with a speed of 10 knots, for instance, he now may borrow funds from the Government to the amount equal to 80 per cent of the ship's construction. The operation of such a ship costs $300 a day, and if she carries mail the Government pays the owner $360 a day to run her at sea.

The owner runs no risk. The Government furnishes practically all the money and the people are told that Uncle Sam "showed judgment in getting out of the merchant marine business."

SHIP OWNERS LIABLE FOR OPIUM SMUGGLING

Washington, Sept. 28.—The Senate rejected a report of its Finance Committee that vessel owners should not be held liable when the Government discovered that opium or narcotic drugs are smuggled on these ships. The vote was 54 to 23.

The House inserted a clause in the tariff bill that owners should be liable, but this was stricken out by the Senate committee on the ground that it is unjust to hold the owner for acts done by his captain and crew.

When the question reached the Senate it was charged that it is impossible for ship owners, who employ Chinese sailors and stewards, to be ignorant of this smuggling.

It was shown that on 36 different occasions between April 22, 1925, and Nov. 3, 1926, smuggled opium was found on vessels owned by the Dollar Steamship Company, a notorious employer of Chinese labor. Fines that totaled $760,502.36 were levied by the Treasury Department against the owners of these vessels, but the fines were reduced to $6,650. No one believes the captains paid these fines. The ships operate in the trans-Pacific and round-the-world trade.

"The master is only the agent of the owner," said Senator Blaine of Wisconsin. "The larger portion of the smuggling of opium and narcotic drugs prevails in the commerce from the Orient. The owner of the ship has absolute control over the type of sailors he may employ. The very thing that is within his power to prevent this smuggling to a large degree he has failed to take advantage of. He persists in the employment of cheap Oriental labor to make up the crew for his vessels.

"If these same owners are held to a greater responsibility they may find it to the position where they will find it to their interest to employ Americans to man their vessels."

COSSACKS ON TRIAL FOR DEATH OF MINER

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 28.—The trial of three former coal policemen, charged with the murder of John Barcoski, whose death aroused the State against the Cossack system, began in Judge James H. Gray's Criminal Court.

The State will show that Barcoski was a hard-working miner who had committed no offense, but who angered the Cossacks when he attempted to curb a brawl in which they were participating. This was the testimony at the coroner's inquest.

The defendants are Walter J. Lyster, Harold P. Watts and Frank Slapikas. The former was a lieutenant and the others were privates in the Cossack force maintained by the anti-union Pittsburgh Coal Company. This concern was one of the first to abrogate the Jacksonville agreement and led the fight against the United Mine Workers of America.

PLAN TO UNIONIZE N. Y. DRESS SHOPS

New York, Sept. 28.— Society women and members of Actors' Equity Association will aid the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in organizing 5,000 dressmakers employed in exclusive custom shops in this city.

BARBERS ELECT WENZEL

Indianapolis, Sept. 28.—Herman C. Wenzel of St. Paul was elected secretary-treasurer Journeymen Barbers' International Union by the convention of that organization. He succeeds Jacob Fischer, who recently resigned.

President Shanessy was unanimously re-elected. The convention voted to include "beauticians" in the name of the organization but later rescinded that later.

MUSICIANS RAISE WAGES

Detroit, Sept. 28.—Musicians won their two-weeks' strike against a group of theaters in this city and raised wages $10 a week.

BUSINESS MEN VEER TO OLD-AGE PENSION

New York, Sept. 28.—Business men are changing their view toward old-age pensions, according to a statement made before the New York Commission on Old Age Security, which is holding public hearings in this city.

A representative of the National Industrial Conference Board, representing a score of anti-union employers' associations, canvassed 318 business men. He reported that many employers who had previously held that such legislation is 'socialistic' and antagonistic to the American philosophy of individualism, have changed their minds, in view of the enormous complexities of modern economic and industrial life.

Prominent social workers claim that neither private charity nor group insurance can relieve industrial pensions can cope with old-age dependency.

Economists, statisticians and representatives of charitable and relief agencies insisted that old-age pensions is the only method of dealing satisfactorily with the problem. All admitted, however, that even pensions would not do away with the necessity for additional relief in special cases.

Witnesses declared it is untrue that bank savings and regular insurance take care of the aged. Figures showed that the amount of industrial insurance (the only kind the poor can afford) lapsed in 1927 as compared with the amount paid out in death c.ims.

was estimated that between 30 an per cent of the workers have no i.surance. The prosperity of the nation, it was claimed, is largely due to the lack of foresight of the population and their reckless expenditure of their income."

State Senator Mastick, chairman of the commission, has declared in favor of old-age relief in some form and that an investigation of the entire subject is necessary. He did not venture an opinion on what form the commission's report to the legislature will take.

Sears-Roebuck Co. Did Use Prison Goods

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 28.—"You were the kind I was wrong," says R. E. Wood, president Sears-Roebuck & Co., in a letter to the Detroit Labor News, which ordered the mail order house of buying overalls made in the Marquette (Mich.) penitentiary.

Mr. Woods first claimed that the statement was "evidently inspired." The Labor News quoted records of the penitentiary. This stated and was President Wood admits he was wrong.

"I had been misled as to the facts by one of our buying departments," he says.

"You can rest assured that no more such purchases will be made by this company and if any labor organizations or any labor newspapers find any violation of the intention of this policy, I shall feel obliged to them for calling it to my attention."

Chicago, Sept. 28.—Union printers are hopeful that Sears, Roebuck & Company's repudiation of prison-made goods will eventually include all non-union conditions. This company's large catalogue is now being printed in a notorious non-union plant in this city.

FIVE-DAY WEEK URGED BY ORGANIZED CARMEN

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 28.—The five-day 40-hour week was indorsed by the sixteenth convention Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, which was attended by 600 delegates from all sections of the United States and Canada.

Secretary-Treasurer Ellis' report showed an increase of 10,000 members and an increase of $1,000,000 in the treasury since the last convention. The funds on hand total nearly $3,000,000.

A feature of the convention was President Martin F. Ryan's report, which included every subject of interest to the membership. His ridicule of the company "union" was repeatedly applauded. "This institution," he said, "was born from the ranks of high finance and only survives because of intimidation and victimization by unscrupulous employers.

"The controlling hand of management is ever felt in all company 'union' decisions," he said.

"WOMEN WORK FOR PIN MONEY" IS DECLARED "HOARY UNTRUTH"

Washington, Sept. 28.—The theory that women work for "pin money" is challenged by Miss Mary Anderson, director Union of States Women's Bureau, in a public statement.

The great bulk of women wage earners, says Miss Anderson, are working to raise money for the bare essentials of life or to raise the standards of living of their families.

"The theory that women work just for feminine fripperies would be ridiculous except for the misery it has brought in the past in keeping women's wages low and the possibility of it as a justification for low wage-earning opportunities and progress of women until every vestige of it is gone," declared Miss Anderson, who refers to "cold, hard facts and statistics based on investigations" made by her bureau.

"Those who still cling to this theory will have to change the definition of 'pin money' when they face actual facts. A woman's so-called 'pin money' is often the family coupling pin, the only means of holding the family together and of making ends meet. Very few women, if any, work just for money for clothes and trifles or for a few extra dollars to fritter away on amusements and luxuries. The great bulk of women wage earners are working in factories, mills, stores, offices, restaurants, laundries and other places for money for the bare essentials of life or to raise the standards of living for their families and give their children a better education and a greater opportunity to advance in life.

"The 1,500,000 women are working at paid jobs in the United States, according to the 1920 census. Among these are more than 2,000,000 married women, although the 1930 census will doubtless show an increased number.

"The married women are at present probably the ones most pricked and in most instances seriously injured by the pin-money theory. The prejudice against the married woman worker has been voiced on so many sides and a misunderstanding of the reasons for her gainful employment is so extremely prevalent as to call for special discussion of her problems."

Big Business Can't Be Checked; Anti-Trust Law Repeal Urged

New York, Sept. 28.—Repeal of the anti-trust acts and the substitution of broad powers to the Federal Trade Commission to regulate big business combines, was urged by Samuel Untermyer, well-known lawyer, in a radio address over Station WJZ.

Mr. Untermyer declared that strict and impartial enforcement of the Sherman and Clayton acts "against the thousands of offenders, involving the most powerful men in the industrial and financial life of the Nation and affecting billions of investors and thousands of millions of dollars, would plunge us into a veritable debacle that would shake the very foundations of our prosperity."

"The truth is," he continued, "that in the struggle to enforce the anti-trust laws these interests have proved stronger and more potent than the law, the courts or the Government."

Among the legalized evasions of the anti-trust laws, Mr. Untermyer cited the Supreme Court decision which exempts combinations for export trade. This law, he said, "has proved a potent shield to the most powerful combinations in restraint of home competition. Under its protecting wing the participants are enabled to openly get together and agree on prices for export that almost automatically become applicable to home conditions. The result is accomplished without the aid of a spoken word or the touch of a pen."

Mr. Untermyer's views recall organized workers' claim that the Sherman anti-trust act only has been used against labor unions. Section 1 of the act declares that "every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal."

Section 4 empowers the federal judiciary to "prevent and restrain violations of this act."

This section authorizes every federal judge to let his conscience decide what is a conspiracy.

The result has been "good" trusts, but where labor is involved the decisions have been 100 per cent against the workers. The court then, acting in good conscience, always votes "conspiracy."

The Danbury hatters' case, the Duplux, the Truax, the Bedford cut stone and every other decision that has wrested rights from labor have all been based on the Sherman act that gave the power to courts, to decide according to their conscience.

In the Bedford cut stone case the Supreme Court held that an injunction compelling workers to handle non-union stone on the ground that a refusal was a conspiracy in restraint of trade.

In their dissenting opinion Associate Justices Brandeis and Holmes blamed Congress for this situation. They said: "If, on the undisputed facts of this case, refusal to work may be enjoined, Congress created by the Sherman law and the Clayton act an instrument for imposing restraints upon labor which reminds of involuntary servitude."

SHEARER IS "BAD MAN" SAYS PIOUS BUSINESS

Washington, Sept. 28.—William B. Shearer, high-priced lobbyist for three shipbuilding concerns, is pictured as the "villian" in the probe being conducted by a Senate committee.

Shearer is suing these companies for $250,000 for "services," and the companies claim his propaganda was not intended by them—they merely wanted him to attend the Geneva disarmament conference to report "the trend of events."

That Shearer may be made the "goat" was indicated by Clinton L. Bardo, president American Shipbuilding Company, who told the committee that he was through with Shearer." Charles Schwab of the Bethlehem Steel Company and other builders expressed the same sentiments.

Schwab was as innocent of Shearer's activities as when he testified before a similar committee on conditions in his coal mines. At that time the steel magnate "really didn't know" anything about working conditions in his non-union mines or of the attempt to drive the United Mine Workers from his coal properties.

While shipbuilders are protesting that Shearer exceeded his authority, there is a disposition to reject their alibi and extend the probe into a general inquiry of activities by lobbyists who work behind the scenes.

NEW INDUSTRIES ON LOW WAGE BASE

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 28.—New industries generally are of the low-wage kind, and can not solve the problem of unemployment that is caused by automatic machinery and scientific processes.

This statement is included in the report of the International Executive Board to the convention of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union.

"New machines are constantly throwing hundreds out of work for whom no room can be made in other industries because they are just as crowded with machines," the board states.

"These new industries, with few exceptions, are operated on a low-wage basis, requiring at the best unskilled machine operators, paying aid little in solving the unemployment problem, which keeps on growing and growing."

MAHON RE-ELECTED

Seattle, Sept. 28.—William D. Mahon was elected for his thirty-seventh term as president of the Amalgamated Association of Street Car and Electric Employes at their convention here.

St. Louis was selected as the next convention city.

MINE WAGES REDUCED; OPERATING NON-UNION

Washington, Sept. 28.—A report by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that wages of bituminous coal miners in the Jacksonville agreement have reduced since the owners abrogated the Jacksonville agreement and operate on the non-union basis.

The report covers the period 1926-1929. No reference is made to unionism or non-unionism, but the figures justify every claim by organized miners who point to these low wages and to the demoralized industry as proof that they were right and that defenders of the coal owners were wrong.

The bureau's figures show that average earnings per hour of hand loaders in 1926 were $0.779 against $0.648 in 1927; hand or pick miners $0.783 in 1926 as compared with $0.673 in 1929; machine miners $1.195 in 1926 as compared with $1.018 in 1929 and machine runners $1.279 in 1926 as compared with $1.010 in 1929.

Average earnings per half-month pay period for miners were $65.74 in 1926 as compared with $45.78 in 1929; hand or pick miners $60.13 in 1926 against $39.50 in 1929; machine miners $102.68 in 1926 against $86.52 in 1929 and gang miners $108.33 in 1926 against $80.50 in 1929.

These figures do not include short work time and debased work conditions that were associated with non-union conditions.

BELDEN WON'T QUIT TO "PLEASE LABOR"

Racine, Wis., Sept. 28.—Circuit Judge E. B. Belden, who was called upon to step out by a State legislative committee, is posing as a victim of "labor persecution."

Legislators found that he borrowed money from a Kenosha manufacturer, who wiped off the debt. Judge Belden afterwards made a favorable tax decision in which the manufacturer was interested. The judge used his influence against hostery workers on strike at the Allen-A plant in Kenosha, but never emphasizes this opposition, but ignores the main point developed against him by the legislative committee.

His attorney bravely announces that his client will continue in office and will not be "intimidated" by labor.

Without a trace of humor, this attorney declares:

"It is not in the interest of good and stable government that the judges of our courts shall hold their office at the behest or pleasure of those who have engineered the attack on our circuit judge."

AIR MONOPOLY LOOMS, SAYS SENATOR DILL

Washington, Sept. 28.—A monopoly of the air by private corporations or government control of radio stations faces the country if the present policy of the Federal Radio Commission continues, declared Senator Dill, co-author of the Federal radio act.

"The Radio Commission is granting wave lengths now in such a manner that control of the air will be placed in the hands of a few corporations," said the Washington lawmaker. He expressed the belief that if the United States Supreme Court upholds the vested-rights claim of radio stations to certain wave lengths the situation will be "most serious."

"SLUSH" ACT IS VOID

Eau Claire, Wis., Sept. 28.—Judge James Wickham ruled that the Wisconsin corrupt practices act does not apply to the office of governor. The law has been in force since 1911 and is intended to guarantee purity in elections. An appeal will be taken to the State Supreme Court.

The ruling, if sustained, is interpreted to mean that there is no limit to the amount of money a candidate for governor, or his followers, may spend in a campaign.